

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(Area)

FILE CODE: A2623

ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

IMPORTANT

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FROM: January 1, 1954

TO: December 31, 1954

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	PROPER	
	HOTCHKISS	
	MATSON	
	CONDON	
✓	BROWN	DM 6/25/54
✓	CHAPMAN	9/5/54
	MCCOM	
	EDWARDS	
	GARRY	
	KITTAME	
	WOHLBRANT	
	ROBINSON	
	VIGGINS	
	MULLIN	

A2623

Report 1a1

June 21, 1954

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Annual Report of Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

In accordance with instructions contained in Report 1a1, Volume 15 of the Administrative Manual, "Annual Report of Officials in Charge of Field Areas and of the Regional Directors", the following subjects are attached for possible inclusion in the Annual Report of the Director to the Secretary:

1. Elk Reduction
2. Buffalo Reduction
3. Buffalo Census
4. Antelope Reduction
5. Bear Incidents
6. Entrance Fees
7. Quarters Rental Increases
8. Change in Postage Procedure
9. Civil Service Changes
10. Government Construction Contracts
11. Concessioner Improvements
12. Medical Service Permit Extended
13. Fryer Stores, Inc. Contract Terminated
14. Bad Fire Season
15. Yellowstone Library and Museum Association
16. Yellowstone-Teton Association
17. Forest Insect Control
18. Wayside Exhibit Robbed
19. Television
20. Minimum Temperature Record Broken
21. Shoshone Cavern National Monument Transferred

Item No. 21 pertains to Shoshone Cavern National Monument. We do not have anything of special significance to report for Big Hole Battlefield National Monument.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

Attachments 21

In duplicate

Copy to Region Two (2) w/c attachments (2)

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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(1) ELK REDUCTION

At the opening of the hunting season the northern Yellowstone elk herd was estimated to number approximately 10,660 elk. The 1953-54 reduction plan called for a reduction of 5,600 animals in order to achieve the desired population level of 5,000 head.

The reduction was to be effected by hunting in Park County, the elk lift, by live shipments and by slaughter if the desired reduction could not be effected by the first three means.

The drift of elk out of the park was to be encouraged by a split hunting season, by the use of an airplane or helicopter to drive elk out of the park into hunting territory and by driving elk down or out of the park by utilizing horsemen, men on foot or any other possible means.

The hunting season in Park County from October 15 to November 15 resulted in a take of 60 and the season from January 20 to February 1 resulted in a take of 302. Elk not checked out through the checking stations was estimated at 60, making a total reduction by hunters of 422.

Attempts to drive elk out of the park in the Stevens Creek area to outside hunting territory by using saddle horses was made on two different occasions in December but was not successful as the elk were determined to reach the safety of the hills above. Several

other attempts were made by the Montana Fish and Game Department and the National Park Service to haze elk out of the park into the hunting territory in Montana by means of plane, horseback, helicopter and pyrotechnics with very little success.

Two hundred and ninety elk were trapped from the latter part of December until March 17 at the five park traps. Of the 290 trapped 207 were live shipped for restocking, 74 were transported outside the park in connection with the elk lift and 9 died of injuries received in trapping.

All valid requests from Indian agencies for elk carcasses were filled by shooting on the open range. One hundred and seventy one elk were shot, 117 of which were killed above Tower Junction and 54 between Oxbow Creek and Tower Junction.

Total reduction from the herd during the winter totaled 1,050.

The Gallatin elk hunting season which closed November 15 was re-opened November 29 to complete a harvest of 400. The season was closed December 11, 1953, after a two days notice, with 484 taken. A third elk hunting season was held between January 9 and 17, 1954, the desired harvest being 500 animals. The season was closed by the State of Montana when between 250 and 300 elk had been taken because the area had been virtually cleared of elk and considerable public opposition developed.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(2) BUFFALO REDUCTION

Work started on November 30, 1953 on the reduction of the buffalo herd in the Fountain Flat area which herd was established through the planting of some 36 animals in 1936. Twelve animals were taken the first day. A crew of six rangers was organized to do the work which consisted of shooting the animals and skidding them to the roadside where they were butchered by Indians from various tribes. The first tribe to send a crew to the park to get animals from this herd was the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe from Fort Yates, North Dakota. The reduction was completed on December 5, 1953 with 62 animals having been taken from the herd. "Weasels" obtained on loan from the War Department were used in connection with the reduction program and worked very satisfactorily. Indians from the Standing Rock Agency and from Ogallala Agency, Pine Ridge, South Dakota butchered the animals, handled the carcasses and transported them to their respective agencies.

In January 22 buffalo were trapped at Crystal Creek elk trap, killed and turned over to the Blackfeet Indians from Browning, Montana, the meat being used for Indian schools and hospitals. Three buffalo which were interfering with elk trapping operations were killed at Lamar and butchered. In February 52 were shot at the Crystal Creek trap and turned over to Indian butchers from the Northern Cheyenne Agency, Lame Deer, Montana.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(3) BUFFALO CENSUS

An aerial census of buffalo was conducted on January 25, 1954, with Biologist Kittams making the count, and resulted in a total of 1,477, with 663 in Hayden Valley, 461 in Pelican, 195 in the Firehole area and 158 in the Lamar area.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(4) ANTELOPE REDUCTION

A count of 484 antelope was made on December 15, 1953, indicating an increase of 27 per cent over the herd of the previous February. Considerable effort was made in January by the Montana Fish and Game Department and the National Park Service to trap and remove 370 animals from the lower Yellowstone range in line with the reduction plan. Trapping was done by both aerial and ground hazing, both helicopters and planes being used. The animals became wary of the trap and the operation was finally terminated when repeated attempts to catch more animals failed. It was possible to trap only 207 animals, 131 of which were sent to the State of Nevada, 58 to the State of North Dakota, 13 to the August LaLouette ranch in Kansas and 5 were killed by injuries.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(5) BEAR INCIDENTS

A summary of bear incidents for 1953 showed 43 injuries, slightly in excess of the 40 for 1952, all but one of which was attributed to black bears. Most were rather minor and involved park visitors, the exception occurring near Mammoth with species of bear unidentified and resulted in hospitalization of a park employee, Park Engineer Gordon Cummings, for treatment of numerous lacerations and bruises after being badly mauled when he encountered a bear in the dark returning from a fishing trip. A Total of 66 bear damages were reported, mostly to visitors' property, food apparently tempting bears in two-thirds of the incidents, and grizzlies probably being responsible for less than 10 per cent of the damages. Ten black bears and one grizzly bear were shot and two young grizzlies shipped to an Omaha zoo for control purposes. Twelve other black bears and one grizzly are known to have died due to other causes, mostly automobile accidents.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(6) ENTRANCE FEES

On August 23, 1953 the practice of writing automobile license numbers on all entrance permits was started. Prior to this date and since the inauguration of the new license fees on June 8, 1953 only the season permits contained the license numbers, which resulted in a traffic of 15 day permits all around the park and was responsible for the loss of considerable revenue to the government.

A new fee system for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks went into effect June 16 along with many other areas administered by the National Park Service. The Yellowstone and Grand Teton joint permits are discontinued and the house trailer fees at Yellowstone have been increased. The new fees for the two parks are as follows: YELLOWSTONE - automobiles, 15 days \$3, annual \$6; house trailers, 15 days \$3, annual \$6; motorcycles, 15 days \$1, annual \$2. GRAND TETON - automobiles, 15 days \$1, annual \$2, house trailers, 15 days \$1, annual \$2; motorcycles, 15 days \$1, annual \$2.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(7) QUARTERS RENTAL INCREASES

On July 5, 1953 the new quarters rental schedule became effective, which provided for a 25 per cent increase over the rates in effect prior to that date, with an additional increase ^{effective} ~~on~~ ~~October~~ ~~11,~~ ~~1953~~ which provided for a 50 per cent increase over rates which had been in effect prior to July 5. Revised quarters rental rates were approved in February 1954 as recommended by the Yellowstone Park Quarters Appraisal Board and the final rates, including those on which appeals were made and approved, became effective February 14, 1954.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(8) CHANGE IN POSTAGE PROCEDURE

Effective October 1, 1953 all government mail was required to carry postage in accordance with Public Law 286, approved August 15, 1953, which amended the Penalty Mail Act and removed the free franking privilege for government agencies.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(9) CIVIL SERVICE CHANGES

On July 1, 1953 the field system of the Civil Service Commission was reorganized, the 13th Civil Service Region, in which Yellowstone is located, being changed to Region 10 and to include Arizona in addition to Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

The Tenth Civil Service Region on February 18 designated the following to serve on the Board of Civil Service Examiners Established for Yellowstone National Park: Philip H. Wohlbrandt, Chairman, William G. Proper, Executive Secretary, Ernest R. I. Anderson, Roger H. Miller and William Wiggins Continuing Members. On May 3, 1954 Robert R. Robinson, Jr., Deate T. White and George McMullin received appointments as Panel Members of this board.

For the first time seasonal park rangers and ranger naturalists for Yellowstone were placed under civil service for the 1954 season. Unassembled examination announcement No. 395 for seasonal park ranger, naturalist, historian and archaeologist, GS-4, was issued by the Civil Service Commission on February 16, 1954. The registers for this region are maintained by the Region Two Board of Civil Service Examiners, Omaha, Nebraska.

Permanent and seasonal wage board positions in the park beginning with the 1954 season will be required to be filled from civil service registers, applications to be rated and registers established by the Yellowstone Park Local Board of Civil Service Examiners.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(10) GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

The Strong Company, Springville, Utah, who was given approval August 20, 1952 for bituminous surfacing of roads and parking areas at Canyon, Route 1 F 3, G4, had the job about 85% complete by the end of the fiscal year.

The construction of the water and sewer system at Canyon, which contract was awarded Cop Construction Company of Billings on September 23, 1952, was completed by the end of the 1953 working season.

The contract of Studer Construction Company, of Billings, for construction of campground roads at the Canyon area was approved July 23, 1953 and work was about 40 per cent complete at the end of the 1953 working season. Because of the stormy and wet weather in May and June little additional work was accomplished before the end of the fiscal year.

On the grading and surfacing of 4.075 miles of the Norris-Canyon road, Route 12, awarded to Peter Kiewit Sons Company of Sheridan, Wyoming on September 25, 1953, considerable clearing was done before the end of the 1953 working season and the contractor moved in the last week of May to resume clearing operations although the terrain was very wet and progress was slow.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(11) CONCESSIONER IMPROVEMENTS

Additional cottages were constructed by the Yellowstone Park Company in the rear of the Lake Hotel and when the 1954 season was opened 111 cottage rooms were available in this area.

Public bath and laundry facilities were added at the Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge tourist cabins and these were in operation in June and 30 new cabins with steam heat, bath, lavatories and toilets were constructed during the fall and spring and were in operation in June.

The new dormitory at Old Faithful in the rear of the campground store was completed by Hamilton Stores, Inc. and occupied during the summer of 1953. An addition to the West Thumb store and two new dormitories were under construction during the summer of 1953 and spring of 1954 and were in operation in June. The interior of the Coffee Shop at Mammoth was enlarged and painted.

In April permission was granted Hamilton Stores, Inc. to discontinue operation of its general store and cafeteria in the Mammoth campground the building to be used as a general storehouse. The interior of the general store in the campground was remodeled and made into living quarters.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(12) MEDICAL SERVICE PERMIT EXTENDED

On May 25, 1954 the Region Two Office approved a one year extension of Business Concession Permit No. I-43ap-223 covering operations of the hospital and furnishing of medical and dental care in the park for one year from January 1, 1954 for Drs. Alfred M. Lueck and John A. Pearson.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(13) PRYOR STORES, INC. CONTRACT TERMINATED

On August 18, 1953 Acting Director Tolson executed the agreement terminating Concession Contract No. I-lp-989 under which Pryor Stores, Inc. has provided concession facilities in the park. The agreement terminated the contract as of January 5, 1953, on which date Hamilton Stores, Inc. took over the operations conducted by Pryor Stores, Inc.

On January 29, 1954 the Director approved a Joint Venture Agreement between Hamilton Stores, Inc. and the Yellowstone Park Company covering operation of gasoline service stations in the park under the Yellowstone Park Service Stations.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(14) BAD FIRE SEASON

Nineteen hundred and fifty three was one of the worst fire seasons recorded in the park's history. By the end of August the number of lightning fires experienced up to that time, 56 reportable fires, outnumbered any other year for which Atlas records have been kept. By the end of the fire season there had been 81 reportable fires, 59 of which were attributed to lightning and 22 were man-caused.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(15) YELLOWSTONE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association was held in the Chief Park Naturalist's Office on October 9, 1953. Mr. Jack E. Haynes resigned as Treasurer of the association and Mrs. Alice Quist was elected to that position. The Board of Directors of the association for the coming year will be composed of Edmund B. Rogers, Warren F. Hamilton, Otto M. Brown, James W. Brown, W. Verde Watson, Alice Quist, William G. Proper, Jack E. Haynes, Joseph Joffe, Francis Elmore and David de L. Condon. Mr. James Brown was elected chairman of the board for the 1954 year.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(16) YELLOWSTONE-TETON ASSOCIATION

On August 18, 1953 the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce sponsored a meeting of Chamber of Commerce officials from neighboring states and other interested persons in the Mammoth Hotel Recreation Hall and discussed road improvements in the park. Director Wirth, Congressman D'Ewart of Montana, Congressman Saylor of Pennsylvania and Congressman Wier of Minnesota were among those participating in the meeting, which was attended by a number of Yellowstone officials. As a result of the meeting an organization known as the Yellowstone Teton Development Association was formed with Rev. Paul B. McCleave of Bozeman as Chairman and William Mackay of Red Lodge, Ted Amschel of Jackson Hole, Roy Wilson of Gardiner, H. P. Christensen of Thermopolis, Dean Chaffin of Bozeman and Charles Stark of Idaho Falls as members.

The organization held another meeting at the Mammoth Hotel Recreation Hall on September 14 to approved its purpose and by-laws and elect officers and directors. Dr. McCleave was elected President.

The organization, which later adopted the name of the Yellowstone-Teton Association, met at Old Faithful Lodge on June 7, 1954 and reelected Dr. McCleave as President, H. P. Christensen of Thermopolis as Vice President, Charles Stark of Idaho Falls as Secretary and Irving Woodmansee of Rexburg, Idaho as Treasurer.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(17) FOREST INSECT CONTROL

Two thousand acres of spruce budworm infestation in the Lava Creek area were sprayed on the morning of July 12 and 13, 1953 by an entomologist from the Bureau of Entomology & Plant Quarantine. A complete kill of budworms in the sprayed area was reported. During August no spruce budworms were found within the area sprayed in the vicinity of Undine Falls while they were quite abundant in Douglass fir stands elsewhere throughout the park.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(18) WAYSIDE EXHIBIT ROBBED

The Obsidian Cliff Wayside Exhibit was broken into on September 1, 1953 by vandals. The person or persons shattered the plate glass and stole 16 specimens which were used for display purposes. These consisted of arrow-heads, stone hammers, spear points, knives and other Indian tools. There was no evidence to help identify who might have been responsible for this vandalistic act and the exhibit was closed and shuttered on September 2. The exhibit has been repaired and will be reopened for the 1954 season. All artifacts are being replaced but plaster casts of the various artifacts are being used instead of valuable pieces such as were used in the exhibit before.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(19) TELEVISION

The first television reception reported in the park was received at the Hamilton Upper Store at Old Faithful on May 13, 1954. The program was received from Idaho Falls and the reception was reported to be very good.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(20) MINIMUM TEMPERATURE RECORD BROKEN

The long standing record for the minimum temperature in the continental United States, -66° recorded at Riverside Station near West Yellowstone in Yellowstone National Park on February 9, 1933, was reported broken on January 20, 1954 with -70° at the U. S. Weather Bureau's Rogers Pass Station about 40 airline miles northwest of Helena, Montana.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(21) SHOSHONE CAVERN NATIONAL MONUMENT TRANSFERRED

On May 17, 1954 a bill transferring Shoshone Cavern National Monument (Frost Cave) near Cody, Wyoming to the City of Cody was signed by President Eisenhower. This cavern has not been opened to the public but has been under the coordination of Yellowstone. The City of Cody expects to make extensive developments inside and outside the cavern to make it available to the public.

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Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Office of the Superintendent

July 6, 1954

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Annual Report of Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Supplementing our memorandum to you of June 21 on above subject, the following additional subjects to those previously submitted are attached for possible inclusion in the Annual Report of the Director to the Secretary:

1. Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee Meeting
2. Park Rangers Rescue Blind Fishing Party
3. Death of Thomas M. Thompson

Item 7, QUARTERS RENTAL INCREASES, has been re-written due to an error in copying and is attached, in duplicate, to be substituted for Item 7 transmitted with our memorandum of June 21.

There are no additional items of special significance to report for Big Hole Battlefield National Monument.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

Attachments 4

In duplicate

Copy to Region Two (2) w/c attachments (2)

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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(1) MISSOURI BASIN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING

The seventy-fourth meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee was held at the Lake Hotel June 24 and 25. Assistant Secretary Orme Lewis, Director Wirth, Regional Director Baker, Brigadier General W. E. Potter, Division Engineer of the Corps of Engineers, Omaha, Nebraska, Governors Sigurd Anderson of South Dakota, Norman Brunsdale of North Dakota and Hugo Aronson of Montana and a number of other prominent government and state officials were in attendance. The group was entertained with a showing of a park movie and talk by Park Naturalist Condon on the evening of the 24th and some members were conducted on a tour of the Lower Loop of the park on the morning of the 25th.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(2) PARK RANGERS RESCUE BLIND FISHING PARTY

Park Rangers Robert Murphy and Claude McClain and Seasonal Park Rangers Joe Rapp and Ike Killingsworth were responsible for the rescue on June 28 of a party consisting of the Superintendent of the Blind Association of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah and three blind members of the association who were marooned at Flat Mountain Arm of Yellowstone Lake for some 25 hours after the motor on their 16 foot boat failed them while they were fishing in Yellowstone Lake. Murphy and Killingsworth searched all night June 27 for the missing men and McClain and Rapp continued the search the following day. The men were lost during the worst storm of the summer facing rain and snow most of the time. Visibility was less than 100 feet when the party was sighted and rescued. They had built a fire to keep warm and subsisted on fish they had caught in the lake.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(3) DEATH OF THOMAS M. THOMPSON

Thomas M. "Tut" Thompson, Painter Foreman with the National Park Service, died of a heart attack on January 25, 1954 shortly after reaching home from work. Mr. Thompson, born at Laredo, Missouri on January 21, 1896, came to the park in 1923 and worked as painter for the Yellowstone Park Company until 1929. He was employed that year with the National Park Service as a painter and had served continuously with the Service here as a painter, master painter and painter foreman. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War I. Funeral services were conducted at the Franzen Mortuary in Livingston on January 29 and burial was in the Mountain View Cemetery in Livingston.

A Citation for Commendable Service, a Certificate of Commendable Service, a medal and lapel button were awarded Mr. Thompson posthumously and sent May 21 to his widow residing in Billings, Montana. Mrs. Thompson was also sent a lifetime pass to the areas administered by the National Park Service.

Painter William Olson succeeded Mr. Thompson as Painter Foreman.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

(7) QUARTERS RENTAL INCREASES

On July 5, 1953 the new quarters rental schedule became effective, which provided for a 25 per cent increase over the rates in effect prior to that date, with an additional increase effective October 11, 1953 which provided for a 50 per cent increase over rates which had been in effect prior to July 5. Revised quarters rental rates were approved in February 1954 as recommended by the Yellowstone Park Quarters Appraisal Board and the final rates, including those on which appeals were made and approved, became effective February 14, 1954.

